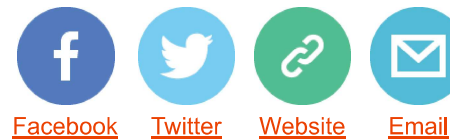


Asatru Folk Assembly's The Voice



Your input is needed to make *The Voice* a publication filled with events, photos and news. Please feel free to submit any events, news or photos to thevoice@runestone.org.

Donate to the AFA



A Few Words from Steve

Hail to you, the members of the Asatru Folk Assembly! I wish you all the blessings of the New Year. May the months to come bestow on you wisdom, victory, and luck...May you prosper in all you do, and enjoy good health...May your ancestors look on you with pride!

This has been a good year for the AFA.

Our Clergy program is constantly revising policy and upgrading standards.

We have more and better qualified Folkbuilders than we did a year ago.

Karen has done a magnificent job of getting The Voice out regularly and seeing that it is full of great content.

The AFA Family Safety Program has finally come into its own and is cranking out good information for all our members.

Most recently, the AFA Folk Services Program has been created to give help to our members where it is needed.

Although we will always keep improving the AFA, we have successfully created a sophisticated organization. We have harnessed the energy and creativity of our young folk, as well as the experience of our elders. The AFA is multi-generational, family friendly, mature without being stuffy, and free of the infighting and drama that paralyzes so many other groups. In short, we have the structure we need to take our religion farther than ever before. We have the capability to start making some real changes on a national and international level.

But we can't do this without YOU, our membes - and the members who are yet to come. You are the ones who make it happen. Now we are ready to grow.

There's an old saying, "Each one reach one." I ask you, in the new year that is upon us, to find and recruit at least one outstanding individual (or better yet, one outstanding family) into the AFA - people who "get it," who stand behind our Declaration of Purpose and who feel that inner imperative to advance our Gods, our ancestral heritage, our Folk.

We have much to do - so let's get on with it!

Stephen A. McNallen

AFA Folk Services and Helping Hands Project!

You're already familiar with the AFA's Family Safety Program. That kicks in if there's an emergency like a fire, tornado, or flood and is designed to guide our members in preparation for catastrophes. In partnership with our Folkbuilders, we also plan to provide response if someone needs immediate help.

The Folk Services are there to oversee the well-being of our members and families. Bryan Wilton established the Facebook page Nanna's Hearth some months ago, so we asked Bryan if he'd help customize a program for our members...and here it is! It will be supported by the generosity of our members and friends who can make tax-deductible donations to the AFA. If you click an AFA DONATE button, that money goes into a special Donation Fund bank account and will be used for Folk Services *if* you specify that's your intention. At this time, Karen Carlson, Bryan Wilton, and Sheila McNallen make up the committee overseeing this program.

Over Yule, we began the Helping Hands Project, our equivalent to the Salvation Army's ringing bells and red kettles. Two families, headed by mothers with young children, received our love and support as a result. One mom wrote the following: "This child's face - made possible by these awesome folks. You have NO idea how much I appreciate this. And thank you to AFA as a whole!"

Please visit Facebook and support the new [AFA Folk Services page](#). And share it if you like it!

What else can you do? Begin an AFA Food Pantry in your area. We already have two in Texas and one that's beginning in Sacramento. Guests who attend the Twelfth Night Celebration at the McNallen home will be bringing non-perishable items for the food pantry. If you can get behind this idea, contact Bryan Wilton (bwilton@runestone.org) or Sheila McNallen (sheila@runestone.org).

Changes Coming to the On-Line Store

You'll find more shirts, more books, AFA patches, water bottles, and loads of decals. And best of all, it will have a new look, new name, and will be a high-functioning site. You'll also be seeing more discounts and special offers. Announcements will be made when it's up and running.

Membership Guide for Established Members

All AFA members now have access to their own accounts where they can update their contact information or even make changes to their dues setup. How is this done?

Go to the membership site by using the following link:

<https://member.asatrufolkassembly.org/login>

Follow the instructions for "Lost Password." From there you can "Edit Profile" to confirm that all of your contact info is correct. You can also Add/Renew Subscriptions as shown on the Renew tab of the website. If you encounter problems, write to tech@runestone.org and someone there will help you. Be sure to include your full name.

The AFA Family Safety Program

TPR5 " Winter 2014 " Released!

Hello all, I just came across this info. Please look at the listed titles; you can download all at the end of the article. Have a Great New Year!

The 5th Edition of The Preparedness Review (Winter 2014) has been released! TPR5 contains 18 articles, 67 pages of great preparedness content! The file size is a little over 2.4 MB. Here are the articles you can expect:

How to Make a Live Capture Box Trap and Trigger System Box â€“ Creek Stewart

How to Cook on a Wood Stove â€“ Melissa K. Norris

Emergency Sanitation Basics: Sewage â€“ Dr. Joe Alton, MD

Situational Awareness: Your Surroundings & Yourself â€“ Chris Ray

Budget Food Storage (Printable) â€“ Linda Loosli

Primitive Prognostication: Weather â€“ Jason

Natural Yeast Starter Flakes â€“ Melissa Richardson

How to Use Pool Shock to Purify Water â€“ Gaye Levy

DIY â€“ Wall-Hanging Canned Food Storage â€“ Alex

The One Simple Secret to Surviving Any Crisis â€“ Daisy Luther

Off Grid Cooking Options â€“ Tessa Zundel

Thinking About Your Neighborhood from a Tactical Perspective â€“ Patrick Henry

How to Get the Most from Your Tomato Harvest â€“ Angi Schneider

You Canâ€™t Survive TEOTWAWKI without First Survivingâ€¦ â€“ Kristina Frost

Colds, Sore Throats & Common Infections â€“ Dr. Ryan Chamberlin

30 Pandemic Essentials â€“ Linda Loosli

A Critical Firearm Accessory â€“ Joe Nobody

Creating Myth when the SHTF â€“ Todd Sepulveda

The PDF is interactive in that all the links are clickable. This edition is ad-free and every article is prepared so that you can print them all out if you want, or just print out what you want to keep in a hard copy.

To Download TPR5:

For Computers/Laptops â€“ [Click Here](#)

For Tablets/Phones â€“ [Click Here](#)



the Maximum

<-- Sara says, "Learn a new skill weekly!"

Advanced Survival Tips by Steve Ingle

After reading the excellent article in the December issue about the **Food Storage Program**, I wanted to write up a short article to expand on other aspects of survival.

COOKING

Give serious consideration to your cooking needs. The everyday household cooking pots and pans, etc., are not designed for the rigors of outdoor cooking. They will do in a pinch but will wear out and become useless fairly quickly. A very good set of cast iron cookware is your best bet and should be in every kit. You will also need some type of grill to do your cooking. An



BLANKETS/QUILTS

This is an issue often overlooked; however, it should be a priority. Have and keep a good number of warm bed covers for every person in your household. If there is no heating source you will be thankful to have a few extra blankets.

DEFENCE / SURVIVAL WEAPONS

Well, there are as many opinions on home defense weapons as there are types of weapons; none-the-less, I'll share my opinion. Taking into consideration that every situation is different and we can't ever really know what we are going to come up against, it is best to be prepared for any event. This is what I think is ideal and for the simple reason that these firearms use ammo of very common calibers so you can also trade or share with your kinsmen:

1. A 12 gauge pump shotgun and lots of double ought buckshot
2. A .40 or .45 caliber pistol (Springfield XD or Glock)
3. A .30-30 caliber carbine (light weight and easy to use)
4. A .300 caliber or .30-06 rifle with a scope
5. A .22 caliber rifle (for small game hunting)

COMMUNICATION

In the event that communication lines are disrupted I think the best way to communicate with your kinsmen is by ham radio. Even an inexpensive mobile radio with a good antenna can reach a long distance. Ham radio does require a license which is not difficult to obtain.

There are three types of license: Technician, General and Extra. There are many good ways to study for your license exam but I used "Ham Test Online" and it worked out well for me: <http://www.hamradiolicenseexam.com/>

The ARRL website has a listing of classes and test sites: <http://www.arrl.org/licensing-education-training>

For those of you who already have a license and a radio my call sign is **N9IK**.

MEDICAL

What's in your medical supply locker? A tremendous amount of good info can be found on the survival medical supplies subject by doing an internet search, so I will only point out one additional item that I think should be standard: a suture kit. Gods forbid that I should ever have to sew someone up, but I could do it if I had to. Suture kits are not expensive and there are even training courses available such as this one:

<http://www.hometrainingtools.com/how-to-suture-wounds-course-and-kit-course/p/KT-APDSUTR/?fee=2&fep=1361&gclid=CKvhmdTtuclCFUmUfgodXGoA0w>

Wassail,
Steve Ingle

From the Folkbuilder Coordinator

I am very happy to announce that in December I made the big move from my



established down here I have been enjoying the hospitality of our very own Brad Taylor-Hicks. By our powers combined we are redoubling our efforts for the AFA, and great things are on the horizon both for the AFA and for me personally. With that in mind I have another important announcement to make:

Eric Whisman, close friend and stalwart AFA member in Anchorage, Alaska, has stepped forward to serve the Folk as our newest Apprentice Folkbuilder, representing Alaska and Hawaii. Eric is eager to take the bull by the horns and pick up where I left off building the AFA strong and plentiful in the Land of the Midnight Sun!

Matt Flavel
AFA Folkbuilder Coordinator

AFA Clergy

Happy New Year from your fellow AFA Gothar!

With another warm and fantastic Yuletide just past, we now have a whole new year in front of us to look towards. What are your goals this year? Have you resolved to dedicate yourself to any practices or new areas of study, for example? We've certainly got lots going on this year... and many goals of our own! And already, the schedules are booking up with requests for help with 2015 weddings, naming ceremonies, and the like. Some of our Gothar are working on charitable causes, as well! As you carry on through the year, it is important that you know that we are here, in service to you, should you need us... be it

public speaking, or even Asatru talk over coffee and tea. We are here for you, day or night.

Some Thoughts about the 2015 Clergy Program

We also want to thank everyone who showed interest in, and applied to, our 2015 Clergy Program. The application process and reviews have been completed, and the 2015 Clergy Program has officially begun. We had many applicants this year. All applicants were exceptional folk, which made the process really difficult this year. Several have been admitted to the program, and some were not. The process of reviewing applicants every year is one that we take very seriously, and we do our absolute best at maintaining fairness through every step of the process.

I, as director of the program, want to personally thank each and every one of you who applied. For those of you who did not get admitted this year, I want to thank you for showing your quality and virtue throughout the interview process. Each of you is brilliant... and I look forward to crossing paths with you for years to come. For those who did get admitted into the 2015 program, I also want to give my thanks, as well as my congratulations and wishes for luck for the coming year.

Any AFA member who needs to get in touch with clergy for any reason, please contact us at Clergy@Runestone.org. And again... Happy New Year!

**Financial Success for AFAers:
Why it matters and what you can do about it!
by Steve McNallen**

In the last couple of issues of The Voice, we've run articles from AFA members who have successfully started full-time or part-time businesses. I don't have an AFA entrepreneur for this issue, but I want to keep the momentum up - hence, these few paragraphs to keep you thinking about business, financial success, and how you can better your monetary

Why is this important? Like it or not, money is the energy that drives this society. Fehu, or "Wealth," is the first rune in the Futhark! If you are going to be self-reliant rather than being a burden on your kin and on the Folk in general, you need to have a grip on this aspect of your life. That doesn't mean being materialistic, or greedy, or exploitative - it means exchanging one form of energy (work, or a product of some sort) for another form of energy (money). The rune Gebo is another rune, along with Fehu, that applies to this relationship.

When you improve your wealth, you don't just help yourself - you directly increase your ability to aid your kin, the AFA, and your Folk.

There are two ways to do this: You can work for someone else, or you can start your own business. You can combine the two. Or you can start off with a job working for someone else, then transition into your own enterprise.

Below are three resources - one for help in managing your money, a second for getting a better job, and a third for entrepreneurs.

1. Free six-lesson online course in managing your money:

<http://ohioline.osu.edu/mym/>

2. Ten best ways to get a better job:

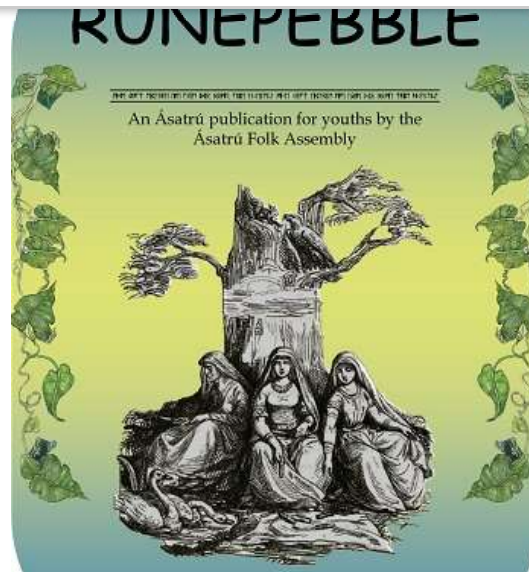
<http://lifehacker.com/5894136/top-10-ways-to-get-a-better-job>

3. Entrepreneur magazine - tons of free articles online for people starting a business:

<http://www.entrepreneur.com/>

Get out there and get the power to control your life!

Runepbble



Runepebble: An AFA e-publication for
Ásatrú families!

Today, this January 1st, you should be receiving the latest issue of Runepebble, the very first issue of the year 2015! The current theme is Thorrablot... and this issue should not disappoint!

But alas, with the publication of each new issue, those of us behind the desk must continue to look towards the next one. We are always on the lookout for folks who wish to contribute to the magazine... folks like you! The theme for the next issue is "Asatru altars." In that issue we will explore ves, horgs, and other such altars from all around the world. We will discuss the different kinds of altars, and even talk about some that were dug up from hundreds of years ago! If you have an altar and would like to share it, or write about altars in general, or have artwork of an altar done by you or children you know... or anything else you wish to send in, we cannot encourage you enough to do so. Have a craft or recipe for items that you like to make for ritual? They are relevant, too! Send your submissions, questions, and even suggestions to Rebecca at Runepebble@Runestone.org. All submissions for that issue are due no later than Friday, February 27th.

Remember! Though this is a publication for children, we encourage adults to get involved

Toy Run 2014



For the fourth year, AFA members from the Sacramento area set up a huge food booth at the Nevada County Food and Toy Run. We were ready with bowls of chili and pulled-pork sandwiches for the bikers who arrived at the fairgrounds, laden with toys for needy children. Special thanks go to Diane who purchased all of the food and who organized the kitchen, and to Jim and Katie who cooked up 100 pounds of pork. Clever teamwork made this another successful AFA event day. We netted about \$800 to help offset costs of this

Bass Lake Yule







The Yule season began on December 19th when twenty of us came together for a long weekend at a sprawling, cedar home in the mountain village of Bass Lake, California.

There was a coziness to the place, with its clusters of antique kitchen tools and collectibles attached to the walls. Colorful rosemaling on furniture, “œWelkommen” in needlepoint, and antler chandeliers added to the celebration of our common European heritage.

The first blot was to Odin on Friday night, led by Steve McNallen. This set the tone for energy and purpose that would continue throughout the weekend. The rituals on Saturday, Mothers’™ Night, included an Alfar Blot, followed by a Frigga Blot, a candle-lighting, and a sumbel. All these were planned with care by Mike Hunter. They naturally flowed from one to the other, amplifying the effect, so that the day felt heavily charged with power by the time evening fell.

The day had lighter moments too, as some folks crafted ornaments for the Yule tree while the men cut, drilled and adorned a dozen Yule logs with holly and candles, and others prepared our feast. Late that evening, the Yule songbooks came out for more merriment and were followed by a gift exchange with many homemade items.

All agreed that Sunday came too soon. Following our hearty breakfast, we all got to work packing up and cleaning, but not before Mike gathered us in a circle again for a farewell and Wayfarers’™ Blot. This weekend proved to be a spiritual retreat of the best kind!

Doings in the Northern Plains



Jason Gallagher, a very dedicated member there in Minnesota. The blot itself was very well done and afterwards we all spent several hours socializing and getting to know one another. I expect there will be more activity in Minnesota now that the fire has been lit.

From Minnesota we moved on to a great celebration in North Dakota over the opening weekend of the Yuletide. I was given the privilege of leading a blot to both Thor and Frey to kick off our celebration. The Gods were with us as the flames crackled and beautiful Sunna shone down upon us; it was an amazing experience. Afterwards we feasted in grand fashion on enough food for twice our numbers: nobody left that hall hungry. And the festivities were far from finished; from there we gathered around for an auction where generosity was the word of the day. This was followed by a very well done presentation on the runes from a good friend and Rune Guild member. She graciously shared a bit of her knowledge in such a way that even the most novice of Asatruar would have understood her. And to round out the evening we held a sumbel in which grand words were spoken and some really good mead was shared. Three times the horn went round, three times brothers and sisters shared their innermost thoughts; it just doesn't get much better. So yes, here in the North we are staying busy and doing great things. Hail the Gods! Hail the Folk! Hail the AFA!

Alfrothul Yule





Alfrothul welcomed the return of the sun, and new kindred member Alvaro (above). Yule was celebrated with the turning of the yule log and a decorated tree.



Mothers' Night and Yule Pub Moot in Texas

Mothers' Night

In Combine, Texas, Mothers' Night went off with a bang at the home of Andrew Read on December 20, 2014. Eleven people, AFA members and enthusiastic supporters, welcomed in Yule with a blot to the Disir. A round-robin open discussion about various female ancestors and the Goddesses followed the blot. This discussion was so powerful that it carried over into the feast - and what a feast it was! There was roasted, juicy pork, served with Joe's special fried cabbage, and - as in all AFA gatherings - much more food!

Texas AFA Pub Moot

On December 27, nine Texas AFA stalwarts braved Texas thunder boomers to gather at Rudy Lechner's in Houston for a Yuletide pub moot and hearty fellowship. The nine dined on grilled trout, German sausages, roasted pork, and chicken schnitzel. Terry and Sandra Unger were gifted with a bottle of home-made mead from a grateful individual; the gift was put to proper use during sumbel. When sumbel was over, warm conversation about children, grandchildren, and pets filled the air, along with thoughts about a gathering for the Charming of the Plow in February. Is that a picture of two ravens just about over Terry's head in the photo? If you were not there, you may never find out!



NORTHWEST MOTHERS' NIGHT



On Saturday, December 20th, Northwest AFA members and friends from near and far gathered for a Mothers'™ Night blot and feast in Centralia, WA. During our blot, I charged the assembled Folk with an important mission: Go forth and grow; increase the worth of the self, increase the worth of the Folk. After the blot, we enjoyed good food, drink, and what turned into three days of merriment with the Folk. Gifts were exchanged, and the first Yule log was lit. It was an excellent start to the Yule season, and helped to make this a Yule never to be forgotten.

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE YEAR TO COME...

The first annual Great Northwest Freyfaxi will be held August 14-17 in Ocean Park, WA. Last year's Freyfaxi was attended by over 40 AFA members, and Freyfaxi 2015 is an event not to be missed!

esalix@runestone.org.

Hail the Gods! Hail the Folk! Hail the Ancestors!
Hail the AFA!

-E. Salix
Northwest Folkbuilder

MID-YULE BLOT





Rachel Harding reports: We had our Mid-Yule Blot and pub moot afterwards on December 27th here in Seattle and it was wonderful! We held it at a beautiful park centrally located.

The park has an old historic brick water tower that we went to the top of via a winding, curving staircase, to get an amazing view of the Sound (which is a fjord), the Space Needle, and the Olympic Mountain range just as the sun set.

We then held blot out under very big and very old trees; this was my very first time officiating.

Afterwards we parked not far and walked together down to a big German restaurant and pub called the Rhein Haus and ate wonderful food, drank good beer, and enjoyed one another's delightful company.

Such great Folk!

Hail the AFA!

Hail the Gods, Wights, and Ancestors!

Hail the Folk!



Members of Hrǫfn Wudu Kindred spent the Yule weekend camped in the sultry Florida wilderness as is our tradition. It was a powerful weekend filled with laughter and song. There was atlatl dart launching for distance, feasting and merriment, culminating with a powerful and inspiring Odin blot and sumbel



enter the new year filled with might and main and ready for great things to come.

Upcoming Events

MAKING VACATIONS PLANS FOR 2015?

The following large gatherings are scheduled, with the camps already reserved:

OSTARA, Fortson 4-H Center, Hampton, GA, March 20 – 22

- Registration is now up at Ostarasouth15.eventzilla.net.
- For more information, contact Folkbuilder Charlotte Hoxie, choxie@runestone.org!

GREAT NORTHWEST FREYFAXI, Ocean Park, WA, August 14 – 16

WINTER NIGHTS IN THE POCONOS, Camp Netimus, Milford, PA, October 16 – 18

In the next issue of *The Voice*, we'll announce the date and location of our upcoming main

weekend!)

We urge all members to come experience at least one major gathering this year. You'll find it's life-changing!

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